

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2007

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: H.S. 1 for H.B. 18 [Diploma Standards]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.S. 1 for H.B. 18 which extends the current requirements for receiving either a State of Delaware Distinguished diploma or traditional State of Delaware diploma. As background, there are currently 2 versions of Title 14 Del.C. §152 - one effective until January 1, 2008 and one effective on January 1, 2008. See attachments. This bill has 2 effects. It essentially defers the implementation of the version of §152 that would have taken effect in January 2008 to January 2011. This means that a standard diploma would still be issued to a student who does not achieve competency on the Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) until January 2011. The rationale for this change is that the DSTP is pending revision. This change favors students with disabilities who statistically perform poorly on the DSTP. Second, it eliminates the “Delaware Distinguished Achievement Diploma” effective January 1, 2008. This change would ostensibly have little effect on students with disabilities.

SCPD endorses H.S. 1 for H.B. 18 since it should result in more students with disabilities qualifying for a diploma in 2008-2010.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Members of the House of Representatives
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

